



JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

February 22, 2022

Written Testimony of THE JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL, JEWISH FEDERATION
OF GREATER HARTFORD

Before the **Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security** concerning **Senate Bill 133 / AN ACT
ALLOWING POLICE OFFICERS TO WEAR RELIGIOUS HEAD COVERINGS AS PART OF A
POLICE UNIFORM**

Dear Members of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security,

On behalf of the Jewish Community of Greater Hartford, the board of the Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford goes on record in support of allowing police officers to wear religious head coverings as part of a police uniform.

The Jewish Community Relations Council educates and galvanizes the Jewish community on issues of social justice, combats hate, and advocates for public policy consistent with Jewish values. One of the core tenets of Judaism is *tikkun olam*, repairing the world. In that vein, our legislative priorities focus on issues such as feeding the hungry, enhancing education, fostering economic growth, and religious freedom.

The wearing of religious head coverings is a longstanding practice in our community and as well as in other religious communities and should be respected as such. People should feel welcomed, wanted, and respected in a workforce where they are allowed to participate in their religious traditions. Furthermore, as we live in a diverse society, we must be as inclusive as possible. This bill will allow all officers to feel comfortable in wearing something that represents who they are in their workplace.

Thank you for your consideration. You are welcome to contact us with any questions by contacting Alana Butler, Director of JCRC, at abutler@jewishhartford.org or 860-727-6152.

SINCERELY,

GARY S. STARR, CHAIR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

DEB POLUN, CHAIR, GOVERNMENT RELATIONS TASK FORCE, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER
HARTFORD

ALANA BUTLER, DIRECTOR, JCRC, JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER HARTFORD

Jewish Community Relations Council
Jewish Federation of Greater Hartford
Zachs Campus | 333 Bloomfield Avenue, Suite C | West Hartford, CT 06117
www.jewishhartford.org